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**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*November 7, 2003*

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## **FEDERAL “RURAL AREA” WAIVER FOR BERLIN’S WASTEWATER TREATMENT UPGRADES MOVES THROUGH CONGRESS**

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today announced that the U.S. Senate gave its approval to a measure that will grant Berlin a U.S. Department of Agriculture waiver to apply for grants through the Rural Development Administration as a “rural area.” This allows the City to apply for federal funds for the City’s \$8.5 million wastewater treatment facility upgrades. Senator Gregg was able to secure the waiver through his position on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

A waiver is necessary because the City of Berlin exceeds the population cap for the rural grant program by 300 persons. Senator Gregg secured a similar waiver in the FY03 Omnibus Appropriations bill last year. The provision, included in the Fiscal Year 2004 Agriculture Appropriations bill, will ensure that Berlin qualifies for the Rural Community Advancement Program through the 2010 census. The bill now heads to a joint House/Senate Conference Committee to reconcile differences between the two versions of the bill.

Senator Gregg stated, “Berlin has done a tremendous job, through tough financial times, working to upgrade its drinking water infrastructure, and this measure will ensure that the City remains eligible for future funding through the Rural Development Administration. These upgrades are critical to maintaining the safety of Berlin’s drinking water and creating an environment for economic growth in the City.”

When the measure passed the Senate Appropriations Committee earlier this year, Berlin Mayor Bob Danderson stated, “This is wonderful news. This is a great opportunity for us to continue applying for and hopefully receiving RDA grants which have been of great assistance to the City of Berlin financially in the past and hopefully will continue to be in the future. We are grateful for Senator Gregg’s help. We hope this waiver will allow us to gain access to funding particularly with respect to water and wastewater projects.”

Senator Gregg has secured \$8.5 million to help Berlin repair and replace water pipes throughout the city. The Senator also helped Berlin obtain a \$1 million Rural Development grant which went into the construction of the Lancaster Street Water Tank, benefitting residential and commercial drinking water, water pressure necessary for fire fighting and connection to a proposed Berlin State Prison.

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